



## *Alumni eNewsletter - October 2009*

### *Vol. IV, no. 3*

With this edition of the Pima Community College Alumni Association electronic newsletter, we welcome the addition of many new alumni and friends to the PCC Alumni Association mailing list.

We hope you'll enjoy these occasional updates on the College. If you chose not to remain on the list, you may remove your name by clicking on the link at the end of this newsletter. Anyone who has taken courses at PCC is eligible to become a member of the Alumni Association. Membership is free and you will receive regular notices of College news and events and opportunities available to alumni. The benefits of membership include invitations to alumni events, volunteer opportunities and use of College services, such as career and job search counseling and access to the libraries and recreation centers. To become a member, simply fill out the [Online Registration Form](#).

## **Alumni Association News**



### **Celebrate Pima's 40th Anniversary - Give \$40!**

Now more than ever our students need your help. Education holds the key to growth as an individual and growth as a community. Many small donations can literally change a life. In honor of PCC's 40th Anniversary, won't you consider making a gift of \$40?

You can now donate online to the PCC Foundation. Visit the web site, [www.pima.edu/foundation](http://www.pima.edu/foundation), click on the secure Donate Online icon and select the area you would like to support. To donate to the Alumni Association Family Scholarship, select Scholarships and at the prompt, type "Alumni Association Family Scholarship."

## PCC Alumni Association Sponsors Zoo Lights

Pima Community College's Alumni Association is presenting its third annual "Pima Alumni at Zoo Lights" to start the holiday season on a magical note, with a private preview of Zoo Lights at Reid Park Zoo. Please join PCC alumni, staff, faculty, friends and family for this holiday kick-off event.



When: Tuesday, December 8, 2009, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Where: Reid Park Zoo, 1030 South Randolph Way, Tucson AZ

Cost: Entry fee \$5 per person; children younger than 5 are free

### Features:

- Free beverages and homemade treats
- Holiday entertainment by PCC music students
- A chance to visit with Santa Claus and get a photo memory
- Pima Alumni Artisan Holiday Bazaar for those last-minute gifts
- **Behind the Scenes Zoo Tour and Fundraiser!**  
Come early for the Behind the Scenes Zoo Tour where participants will visit the zoo kitchens, learn about the special foods the animals eat, and visit tigers and giraffes in their night homes.
- **Space for the tour is limited. You must reserve early.**  
The hour-long tour begins at 5 p.m. The \$30 fee includes admission to PCC Alumni at Zoo Lights Event and benefits the PCC Alumni Scholarship Endowment. Zoo policies prohibit children younger than 5.

The event is sponsored by community partners, including Canyon Ranch.

For more information or to reserve your tickets, please go to [www.pima.edu/alumni](http://www.pima.edu/alumni) or call (520) 206-4646.

## Future Alumni Benefit from Scholarships

When the PCC Alumni Association re-formed in 2005, one of the first priorities of the Board of Directors was to provide support for students. It created the Alumni Association Family Scholarship, which is available to eligible alumni and their dependents that have financial need and show academic promise.

The Alumni Association Scholarship committee selected five recipients for the Fall 2009 semester:

- Scott Hamilton worked for many years as an HVAC technician until injuries forced him to consider another line of work. He is now pursuing a degree in microbiology and hopes to work in a state or federal fish hatchery or national fish health center.
- Adolfo Lopez is working to complete the Building & Construction Technology advanced technical degree so that he may expand his business. He plans to continue his education in engineering.
- Michelle Adams is currently emergency-certified as a special education teacher. In order to continue teaching, she must complete the Post-Baccalaureate Teaching certification. The mother of two autistic sons, she eventually would like to teach in an autism classroom.
- Kanghua Lu is a 78-year-old Chinese immigrant whose dream is to teach Chinese to American students to promote global communication. He is pursuing an associate degree in Liberal Arts.
- Marci Robledo plans to graduate from Pima with an associate degree in anthropology and transfer to the University of Arizona for a bachelor's. She will apply to either the Peace Corp or Americorps to continue her education and teach or write.

“The Pima Alumni Association Family Scholarship makes going to college a little easier for our students,” said Cheryl House, executive director of the PCC Foundation. “We are proud that PCC alumni and friends have given generously to provide this opportunity.”

## **PCC Alumni Association Executive Director Retires**



Philanne “Topy” Burke joined Pima Community College in a temporary position in 1994, first as a writer in Media Relations, then as executive assistant to then-Chancellor Robert Jensen. In 1999, after a national search, she was selected for the regular position as Chancellor Jensen’s assistant and continued in that role for two years with Chancellor Roy Flores.

In 2005, Topy was appointed executive director of the Pima Community College Alumni Association, which had been dormant for several years. Topy brought the Alumni Association to life by recruiting community leaders and alumni to serve as board members, developing an e-mail list for regular communication, and creating a structure to guide alumni involvement with the College. Today, nearly 1,000 PCC alumni from around the world have registered as members of the PCC Alumni Association and 15,000 receive regular updates about College news and events.

Besides her dedication to the College and its alumni, Topy is well-known for her love of world travel and her devotion to her three grandchildren. In addition, she has been a member of the Seven Pipers Royal Scottish Country Dance Society for more than 30 years.

The PCC Foundation and Alumni Association are grateful to Topy for her dedicated and enthusiastic service - she will be missed!

## Alumni Salute



### **Alumni Spotlight: Susan Bratton Tanner (In Her Own Words)**

“In the mid-70s, in my mid-20s, I was the mother of a toddler and the wife of a rising star. Despite having what may have seemed to others to be a perfect life, I was suffering from boredom and a lack of intellectual stimulation that no amount of craft classes and volunteer work seemed to help. It was out of this sheer boredom that I decided to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

“During my high school years in the 1960s, even though I did well in math and science courses, I was never encouraged to pursue higher education in engineering or science. I had been out of high school for almost eight years when I decided to go to college and, at the encouragement of my husband, to pursue an engineering degree. I had a lot of catching up to do! I was a perfectionist and not at all patient with myself when I had trouble grasping the concepts of differential calculus. With a few math classes under my belt, I finally tackled physics and I was sure that I was in way over my head! If I couldn’t get it perfectly right, I must not be “engineer material.” Many times I was ready to give up and return to the life of a mommy and “corporate wifey.” I knew no one would fault me.

“That is very likely the route I would have taken had I not been at Pima. I was truly “in the right place at the right time!” Tony Pitucco was then the physics lab teacher. He was young (only a few months older than myself), bright and energetic. His passion for the subject was infectious. He made the lab assignments fun. Even my miserable (but entertaining) failures with the assigned experiments were valuable lessons.

“I found the same type of encouragement in “Math Lab,” as we called the tutoring center. I particularly remember the patience and understanding of one of the young tutors, Hunter MacPherson.

“With Tony and Hunter cheering me on and helping me through the really rough spots, I did make it through calculus, differential equations, physics, statics, dynamics, and all the other required classes before I transferred to the University of Colorado at Boulder. I found that Pima had provided me an extraordinarily strong foundation in both math and physics.

“After graduating from CU, I returned to Tucson and had a fantastic 25-year career at IBM as an engineer, engineering manager, project manager and customer advocate. I congratulate Pima Community College on its 40 years of providing top-caliber educational opportunities to southern Arizona. I couldn’t have made it without you!”

## Where Are They Now?

### **Helen Bernal, '00**

Self-styled “Native American Mutt,” Helen resides in Las Vegas and works for the Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center as a rights advocate for the mentally ill. Helen graduated in 2000 with an associate degree in applied science, Administration of Justice Studies.

### **Steven R. Edelman, '72, '93**

One of only two music students in the first graduating class, Steve began his course work in the hangar and finished at the new West Campus without interruption. He remains actively involved in music performance and returned to PCC in 1991 and completed the R.N. program. He is now a family nurse practitioner with the Arizona Arthritis Center of the University of Arizona.

### **Paul Hallums, '90**

Paul is currently the director of operations for the National Traffic Safety Institute in Tucson, an agency among the nation’s top four programs for instructing drivers that want to erase traffic citations from their records. An officer for 28 years with the Tucson Police Department, Paul was familiar to local television audiences as TPD’s spokesperson for many years.

### **Ann Chastain-Homick, '77**

Ann is a certified forensic nurse R.N. and a member of the Holistic Nurses Association. She also holds a master’s degree from the University of Oklahoma and has taken many post-master’s level courses. “It all started with Pima, a college with some of the finest teachers I can remember.”

### **Jenna Watson, '06**

Jenna recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. During the eight-week program, Jenna completed a variety of training, including classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety.

Share your news with PCC Alumni! Send an e-mail with your professional and personal news or memories of your PCC experience to [alumni@pima.edu](mailto:alumni@pima.edu).

## Opportunities for Alumni

### **Creative Writing Weekend Workshops**

Take a for-credit weekend workshop led by a professional writer who will offer focused, intensive explorations of special creative writing topics with a variety of activities and lots of hands-on practice.

Oct. 23-25: Poet Steve Kowitz offers The Art and Craft of Authenticity: Writing Memorable Poems **WRT298T2 (CRN 13024)**.

Nov. 13-15: Author Lisa Dale Norton leads Mastering Voice in Memoir: The Lyrical Seeker, the Plot-Driven Storyteller, the Thoughtful Adult **WRT298T4 (CRN 13025)**.

The workshops will be held at PCC West Campus, 2202 W. Anklam Road. The schedule is 6-8 p.m. Friday, and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, with workshops meeting in Sentinel Peak J 101, West Campus Cafeteria. Register in-person at any campus. If you have taken a PCC class in the last three years, you also may register at [www.pima.edu](http://www.pima.edu). Each workshop is two credit hours and each costs \$117 to attend for Arizona residents.

## Upcoming Events



### CFA announces 2009-2010 Season: Happily Ever After

The theme of the PCC Center for the Arts' 2009-10 season is "Happily Ever After," a collection of fun and imaginative productions, including student performances, international, national and regional contemporary visual artists exhibitions, as well as award-winning digital video and film screenings and a student fashion show.

The Center for the Arts complex on PCC's West Campus consists of the 425-seat Proscenium Theatre, the 75-plus-seat Black Box Theatre, the 75-plus-seat Recital Hall and the Louis Carlos Bernal Gallery.

The season runs September through May. For the full schedule and ticket information, go to [www.pima.edu/cfa](http://www.pima.edu/cfa) or call 206-6986.

### Fall Sports Are Underway

Pima's fall athletic teams - Football, Men's and Women's Cross Country, and Men's and Women's Soccer - are competing. For schedules, go to [www.pima.edu/athletics/Schedule.shtml](http://www.pima.edu/athletics/Schedule.shtml).

A complete listing of key dates, campus events, athletics, and the Center for the Arts schedule can be - found on the [Pima Community College Online Calendar](#).

To learn more about Pima Community College, go to [www.pima.edu](http://www.pima.edu)



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Comments or suggestions are welcome at: [alumni@pima.edu](mailto:alumni@pima.edu)

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